OREGON

SUMMARY OF FY 1997 ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The 1997 Environmental Performance Partnership Agreement between Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality and EPA Region 10 outlines the new state/federal approach to protecting Oregon's water quality. The EnPa recognizes the maturity of DEQ water quality programs, and redefines to some extent the DEQ/EPA relationship by shifting to a more co-equal partnership.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR ACHIEVING KEY GOALS

Watershed Approach

Long Term Goal. Work effectively with EPA and other natural resource agencies and groups (federal, state, regional, local, and tribal) to deliver a watershed-based approach to managing and protecting Oregon's water quality.

FY 97 Objectives. Develop framework document for watershed approach; determine the watersheds that will be the focus of attention for FY 97. Develop a work plan identifying resource commitments. Ensure protection and restoration of critical basins and sensitive coastal waters.

Watershed Approach	
Problem/Issue	**Objectives**
Effective, efficient long-term targeting of resources to implement watershed approach.	• Identify remaining issues to be resolved to implement watershed approach. • Work with EPA to prioritize watersheds; select watersheds for initial focus, define activities.
Watershed-based NPDES permitting.	• In concert with the prioritization and selection of watersheds, work with EPA to design a strategy to transition NPDES permit issuance to a watershed basis.

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Watershed Approach	
Problem/Issue	**Objectives**
Coordinated Watershed Approach.	Tualatin Basin: • Evaluate existing data, refine TMDLs, develop and implement second phase of implementation for urban, agriculture, and forestry; coordinate efforts with watershed councils and stakeholders. • Integrate urban subbasin plans into NPS TMDLs. • Develop long term TMDL requirements for point sources. Umatilla River Basin: • Utilize Geographic Initiative Grant from EPA to pilot watershed approach. • With state and local partners, develop total basin, multi-parameter TMDL following watershed protection strategy.
Watershed Assessment.	Umpqua River Basin: • Implement a watershed assessment procedure to document linkages between water quality and watershed management practices. Columbia Slough: • Develop a watershed based TMDL for multiple parameters. Integrate water quality objectives with and environmental cleanup effort. Implement TMDLs using general urban stormwater permits. Grande Ronde Basin: • Complete multi-parameter TMDL; complete upper GR temp TMDL; implement NPS projects; support state, tribal, and local stewardship efforts.
Fill gaps in Coastal Non-point Control Program.	• Add elements to onsite program to better address maintenance of existing systems. • Road/bridge construction/maintenance standards. • Small site construction erosion control.
NEP Community Management Plans.	• Through TBNEP, provide staff, guidance, technical, and financial support.
Controlling and managing dairy animal wastes.	• Provide guidance and funding for Methane Energy and Agricultural Development (MEAD) project.
NW Forest Plan.	• Implement NW Forest Plan Aquatic Conservation Strategy; coordinate NWFP activities with state and local watershed and salmon restoration groups.

OREGON (cont.)

Watershed Approach	
Problem/Issue	**Objectives**
Conservation Management Planning.	• Provide staff, guidance, technical support, and financial support through LCREP.
Watershed Research and demonstration projects.	• Administer 104(b)(3) grant; use 104(b)(3) funds to support water quality/watershed projects in critical basins (with point source connection); at least 25 percent of allocation to be awarded to eligible non-DEQ recipients.
Contaminated Sediments.	• Formalize cooperative interagency Sediment Management Approach; work with EPA, other federal, state, and tribal agencies; develop coordinated assessment approach; establish technical assistance teams (TATs).

Salmonid Recovery

Long Term Goal. Restore and protect water quality for native salmonid populations and support efforts to improve and restore habitat.

FY 97 Objectives. Identify programs and allocate resources that both agencies could provide to support salmon recovery, and especially the Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative and plan. Continue to support the development of watershed councils directing efforts at restoring and protecting water quality for coastal salmonid habitat. Continue water quality/salmonid habitat enhancement programs in Grande Ronde, Umatilla, Deschutes, and John Day basins. Continue active participation on governor's Scientific Advisory Team.

Salmonid Recovery	
Problem/Issue	**Objectives**
Lower the water temperature (which is currently too high to support salmonids).	• Solicit and oversee projects to restore canopy, control temperature, and other projects.
Mitigate impacts from projects in sensitive habitats.	• Section 401 certifications reviewed with emphasis on fish habitat.
Salmon runs reduced in coastal estuaries and watersheds.	• Water quality planning and implementation efforts focused on Tillamook Bay and supporting watersheds.

OREGON (cont.)

Salmonid Recovery	
Problem/Issue	**Objectives**
Salmon runs reduces in Columbia River tributaries.	• Complete TMDLs, watershed management plans with emphasis on salmonid enhancement.
Coho reduced in Coastal streams.	• Continue the Department efforts to develop and support watershed councils through technical support and 319 funding. • GIS mapping support for data layers critical to salmon recovery. • Outreach and education programs to support Governor's Salmon Initiative.
Salmonberry Restoration.	• Develop water quality based maintenance requirements for railroad, establish railroad restoration requirements, and develop instream mitigation measures.
Interagency coordination to develop recovery plans.	• Review all issues associated with coho survival, especially concerning water quality monitoring. • Participate in the development of the salmon recovery plan. • Coordinate NW Forest Plan and Governor's Salmon Recovery Initiative. • Participate on Oregon State Team and Oregon Coastal Salmon Recovery Science Team.
Salmon restoration on private lands.	• Coordinate with NRCS, DEQ, SWCD, and private landowners to ID and implement restoration activities to complement governor's salmon initiative.
Increase Columbia and Snake River Salmon.	• With NMFS, tribes, COE, USFS, BPA, NPPC, and DEQ, address water quality standards compliance (specifically temperature and TDG) and develop water quality management plan, with flow requirements for mainstem hydrosystem operations as part of the Snake River Recovery Plan. Include toxicity, fish contaminant level, and habitat protection. • Participate in system operation reviews and configuration studies on hydropower facilities; particular concerns are enforcement of temperature standard at juvenile salmonid collection facilities during collection periods, and in adult fishways.

Standards, TMDLs, and 303(d) List

OREGON (cont.)

Long Term Goal. Develop a strategy to restore the large number of water-quality limited waterbodies, and make significant progress toward restoration.

FY 97 Objectives. Complete the requirements of the court order; explore alternatives to the TMDL review/approval process, such as NPS basin-wide TMDLs; use the 303(d) list as a tool to select priority watersheds. Develop TMDLs for the following basins: Tualatin, Columbia Slough, Klamath, Grande Ronde River, Umatilla River, and S. Umpqua River. Approved TMDLs will be implemented as planned in FY 97 to address priority waters. Design guidance to implement the newly adopted water quality standards for temperature and dissolved oxygen. Coordinate with DSL on wetland protection efforts.

Standards, TMDLs, and 303(d) List	
Problem/Issue	**Objectives**
Large listing of water quality limited streams.	• Develop priority list of water quality limited waterbodies to target resources, with emphasis on criteria for salmonid recovery; coordinate review and approval of list with EPA.
Large number of listed waterbodies with NPS component.	• Develop guidance for plan approval to meet water quality goals that does not use traditional TMDL resources. • Assist development of watershed management plan for at least 6 listed waters.
NPS TMDLs.	• Develop general permit for stormwater, incorporating TMDLs
Tualatin TMDL.	• Develop TMDLs, coordinate SB1010 with DOA, urban subbasin TMDLs.
Basin-wide TMDLs or equivalent.	• Develop basin-wide model for TMDLs.
Temperature TMDLs.	• Utilize Grande Ronde temperature model to develop TMDL.
Klamath River TMDL.	• Develop TMDL with EPA.
Umatilla River TMDL.	• Develop and refine TMDL.
Grande Ronde River TMDL.	• Develop and submit TMDL to EPA.
Deschutes TMDL.	• Alternative NPS TMDL and water quality Management Plan.
Temperature and dissolved gas superstation.	• See activities for Salmonid Recovery goals.

OREGON (cont.)

Standards, TMDLs, and 303(d) List	
Problem/Issue	**Objectives**
Temperature and dissolved oxygen standards and implementation.	• ESA consultation; work with DEQ, Idaho and Washington state agencies to develop conceptual approach with NMFS and USFWS. • Prepare a biological evaluation. • Participate in consultation.

Non-Point Source Pollution

Long-Term Goal. Conduct adequate water quality monitoring and assessment for non-point sources, making information available to natural resource agencies to determine work needing to be done and to use as a means of public education.

FY 97 Objectives. Form partnerships with other natural resource agencies and stakeholders to build networks for consistent policy, information transfer, and effective implementation of BMPs. Pursue funding opportunities (expand eligibility for SRF, leveraging, etc.).

Non-Point Source Pollution	
Problem/Issue	**Objectives**
Maintain, support local presence.	• Support regional NPS staff with training, project funding, watershed assessments.
Limited applicability for SRF funds.	• Seek legislative approval.
Visual indicators of water quality.	• Establish reference sited in each ecoregion of good water quality with involvement of local land managers; established sites and management practices can be presented through education, stewardship efforts.
Volunteer Monitoring.	• Continue EPA support of Citizen Lake Watch; seek additional support through Lake Center.
Coordinate watershed enhancement.	• Develop geographic and programmatic priorities in collaboration with other NPS watershed management partners. • Review MOAs for effectiveness and participate in GWEB and other programs. • Work with other natural resource agencies to ID projects best meeting NPS strategies. • Administer 319 grants.

OREGON (cont.)

Non-Point Source Pollution	
Problem/Issue	**Objectives**
Reduce NPS pollution, enhance local stewardship of water resources.	• Provide technical and administrative assistance as needed.
Need for Technical Assistance to Natural Resource Agencies and Local Watershed Groups.	• Provide technical assistance and technical review of water quality management plans developed by agencies and local watershed groups.
NPS Management Program.	• Evaluate and update Management plan.
Innovative funding for NPS.	• Tap networks for ideas on new funding sources for NPS efforts

Groundwater Management and Protection

Long-Term Goal. Protect the state's groundwater resources through sound management policies and programs. Identify areas of the state that have groundwater quality problems, particularly focusing on those areas where groundwater contamination is due primarily to NPS pollution. Initiate programs to address the most significantly contaminated areas. Encourage ans promote citizen stewardship of groundwater resources. Promote and encourage pollution prevention as the preferred approach for protecting groundwater water quality.

FY 97 Objectives. Support and promote groundwater education in the state. Identify areas of NPS groundwater contamination. Continue to develop accessible groundwater database and maps of vulnerable aquifers. Develop and implement the voluntary Wellhead Protection Program in cooperation with OSHD. Work toward better consistency in groundwater rule implementation.

Groundwater Management and Protection	
Problem/Issue	**Objectives**
Program Coordination.	• Develop partnerships. • Actively promote joint goals with technical materials, data summaries, fact sheets, etc.

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Groundwater Management and Protection	
Problem/Issue	**Objectives**
GW protection in permits.	• Provide training to regional permit staff about GW rule guidance. • Participate in discussions with stakeholders about how to better implement rules.
Source Water Protection (WHP).	• Provide TA to communities doing WHP programs, review and certify.
Raise citizen awareness and education about GW issues.	• Support sand promote groundwater education activities in the state.
Community involvement.	• Continue support of Community Involvement Program.
GW Management Plan.	• Develop and implement LUB-GMA action plan.
Accessible GW database.	• Continue development of accessible database for GW information.
Aquifer vulnerability mapping with GIS.	• Complete aquifer vulnerability map, assess accuracy.
Pesticides in groundwater.	• Coordinate with state pesticide management plan process; review plans.
Nitrate contamination in GW.	• Monitor groundwater.
Vulnerable aquifers.	• Calculate septic system densities to protect. • Research stormwater management designs that provide alternatives to dry wells.
Public awareness to protect GW sources for drinking water.	• Sponsor/coordinate workshops. • Develop outreach materials. • Respond to public requests for information. • Participate at public events and conferences.
GW concerns in watersheds.	• Provide training and technical assistance. • Develop educational materials.
Intra-agency coordination for Oregon's GW protection program.	• Work with other EPA programs to include GW protection. • Coordinate regional policies and programs to address GW needs in ag/rural areas. • Support Home*A*Syst program.

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Pollution Prevention

Long-Term Goal: Firmly establish pollution prevention as the preferred choice for environmental management for public and private sectors. Integrate pollution prevention philosophies and actions into all water quality activities and programs, with an eye towards cross-media implementation.

FY 97 Objectives: Actively participate in the newly formed DEQ Pollution Prevention Core Committee to review issues and develop departmental strategies for integrating pollution principles and incentives into DEQ activities. Drawing from the Ross Report, develop a strategy for integrating pollution prevention principles into the water quality programs. Coordinate water quality P2 initiatives with other DEQ divisions.

Pollution Prevention	
Problem/Issue	**Objectives**
Integrating Pollution Prevention into water quality programs.	• Serve on P2 Core Committee and appropriate subcommittees; assist in drafting legislative concept for state legislature; work with EPA to develop implementation strategy.
Recognizing 'green' behavior in water quality permits; design incentives to employ P2.	• Work with Core Committee, DEQ P2 Coordinator, and EPA Region 10 to investigate opportunities for incorporating P2 into water quality permits. • Work with EPA and DEQ P2 Coordinator to explore P2 incentives to move beyond permittee's compliance.

Water Quality monitoring, Performance Measures, Environmental Indicators, Outcomes

Long Term Goals: Continually improve efforts to monitor water quality for all waters of the state. Develop and implement meaning measures of performance. Develop and implement environmental indicators to help assess the long-term value of water quality efforts. Make measures and indicators meaningful to Oregonians.

FY 97 Objectives: Further develop the OWQI as a tool for measuring general trends in water quality; enhance lab efforts to develop biological indicators for SW; form work group to begin developing indicators and measures for other water quality activities (i.e., GW, NPS, sediments, toxics). Use available sources to help determine other environmental indicators, performance measures, such as the EPA Environmental Indicators of water quality for States; State Environmental Goals Project Prospective Indicators; national catalogue of environmental indicators, when available.

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Water Quality Monitoring, Performance Measures, Environmental Indicators, Outcomes	
Problem/Issue	**Objectives**
BMP effectiveness.	• Conduct long-term monitoring of effectiveness of BMPs
Habitat quality in flood areas.	• REMAP project--monitor reference sites for habitat integrity (macroinvertebrates, fish, water quality).
Habitat quality in Deschutes Basin.	• REMAP project--monitor random sites for habitat integrity (macroinvertebrates, fish, water quality).
Improve water quality data for rivers, streams, and bays	• Water quality ambient monitoring system.
Support voluntary monitoring/watershed councils.	• Technical assistance to coordinate voluntary monitoring programs, watershed councils, and other local watershed groups.
TMDLs.	• Support TMDL efforts by providing scientific studies.
Toxins	• Continue implementation of toxics ambient monitoring plan.
Point Sources.	• Mixing zone studies. • Compliance and investigation sample analysis. • QA split sampling. • Technical Assistance.
Groundwater.	• Compliance and investigation sample analysis.
Measuring trends in surface water quality.	• Further develop OWQI; incorporate into 305(b) report and add to Oregon benchmarks..
Intergovernmental coordination, especially for NPS.	• Liaison with Clinton Forest Plan efforts; Governor's Salmon Recovery Initiative; relative to scientific issues (Oregon Science Team.).
Improved data analysis.	• Improve data analysis and management through use of new STORET.
Develop environmental indicators and performance measures.	• Form work group to assist in developing meaningful measures and indicators of environmental performance in water quality (esp for GW, NPS, sediments, toxics); jointly work with selected watershed council(s) to ID scientific and visual reference sites.

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Streamlined Water Quality Permitting and Compliance Programs

Long-Term Goal: Enable dischargers to implement cost effective pollution prevention strategies and other innovative approaches such that dischargers will no longer be significant contributors to diminished water quality.

FY 97 Objectives: Respond to Industrial Wastewater Permit Advisory Committee recommendations and present report to EQC. Begin implementation of recommendations ad directed. Review all water quality permitting rules, identify possibilities for flexibility, innovation, consistency, and streamlining. Further identify and remove rules that unreasonable hinder or inhibit opportunities for streamlining.

Continue to: 1.) Implement an effective NPDES permit program, and begin to transition to basin/watershed permitting; 2.) Implement an effective pretreatment program; and 3.) Implement the new state Division 50 rules, and work towards delegation of federal land application permitting responsibilities.

Continue to use enforcement as a tool to achieve compliance with water quality standards; however, work with EPA to move away from case-by-case discussion and review, towards a more outcome-oriented approach. Work with EPA to revise and update the NPDES Compliance Assurance Agreement (including cyclical inspections of major NPDES permittees (up to 50 percent per year), and geographically-targeted and jointly developed inspection approaches to assist in transitioning to watershed-based water quality management).

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Streamlined Water Quality Permitting and Compliance Programs	
Problem/Issue	**Objectives**
Industrial Wastewater Permit Advisory Committee Report.	• Continue to work with Industrial Wastewater Advisory Committee; finalize recommendations, present report to EQC; begin implementation of recommendations as directed by EQC. • Consult with EPA on issues/recommendations that affect EPA permitting program rules and policies.
Water quality-based NPDES permits; stormwater permits.	• Continue implementation of NPDES program, including stormwater program; perform reasonable potential analysis for new NPDES permits, as required by federal regulations.
Pretreatment.	Continue implementation of the approved pretreatment program.